

**THE YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY (1961-1962 YEAR BOOK SERIES)**—Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. (Honorary), F.A.C.O.G., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine; Attending Gynecologist, Cook County Hospital; Senior Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Michael Reese Hospital; Associate Staff, Chicago Lying-in Hospital; Author of Office Gynecology, Surgical Gynecology, Obstetrics in General Practice, Obstetrics (12th ed.) and Analgesia and Anesthesia in Obstetrics. Year Book Medical Publishers, Incorporated, 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago 11, 1961. 584 pages, \$8.00.

The object of this Year Book, as stated in its introduction, is to make available a detailed abstract of the cream of the recent international literature in obstetrics and gynecology. The presence of at least two abstracting journals in the English language with similar goals raises the question of how such a volume has maintained its popularity over the years.

The Year Book has been able to create a niche for itself because it presents the abstracts in an organized, succinct manner which leaves the reader with the impression that he has been exposed to all of the important current points of view. The frequent editorial comments, with their isolated bits of information, give the text an additional completeness. Among the many sources which are abstracted, the reviews of the various world-wide symposiums are particularly useful.

While the recent developments in human karyology (chromosome study) are briefly mentioned, their importance to the fields of obstetrics and gynecology is not emphasized. Practitioners of this specialty must be conversant with modern human genetics in order to provide accurate family counseling and to be able properly to manage the problems of the intersex individual.

The 1961-1962 Series of the Year Book can be recommended to both the general practitioner and the specialist, for it has indeed succeeded in abstracting the best of the international literature.

R. C. GOODLIN, M.D.

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**PROGRESS IN MEDICAL GENETICS—Volume I**—Edited by Arthur G. Steinberg, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, and Associate Professor of Human Genetics, Department of Preventive Medicine, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Ave. South, New York 16, N.Y., 1961. 341 pages, \$9.75.

Interest in genetics has been greatly stimulated through studies on the inborn errors of metabolism, concern for the genetic effects of radiation, the demonstration of sex chromatin, the development of techniques of tissue culture and rapid advances in immunogenetics. The editor of this volume has selected eight topics for presentation which are representative of the many broad aspects of genetics as they apply to man. The first three chapters deal with the interaction of the genetic material with the environment. Crow gives a clear and concise discussion of the problems of mutation based on studies that have been carried out on experimental organisms, human beings, somatic cells and tissue cultures. Haldane reviews natural selection and discusses its meaning and consequences in terms of current genetic concepts. One of the best reviews is by Frasier on genetics and congenital malformations. The literature is reviewed on the genetic control of embryogenesis and its relevance to human malformations. The difficulties of genetic counseling are pointed out in the section on "sporadic" malformations. The physician will obtain much information from this chapter which may assist him in discussing the problems of congenital malformation with parents.

The role of the blood groups in health and disease is dealt with by Clark in his discussion of the association be-

tween blood groups and disease, e.g., duodenal ulceration, blood group O and nonsecretion. The meaning of these associations has been explored with little success. Levene and Rosenfield present the genetic and epidemiological implications of ABO incompatibility. Emphasis is on the role that blood groups play in health and disease and the selective forces that maintain their frequency.

The use of consanguinity studies as a genetic method is presented by Morton. Fortunately the algebraic formulations are adequately explained in the text. Although the material in this chapter will be of little use to the physician concerned with an individual patient, nevertheless the technique will be important in increasing our knowledge of mutations and selection.

In the last chapter, Ferguson-Smith discusses "Chromosomes and Human Disease." This is an excellent review of the literature with some fine illustrations of chromosome preparations. The physician will obtain a good background of information from this chapter. Although progress in this field is extremely rapid, the author presents the fundamental information about these abnormalities in terms of numerical and structural aberrations in the chromosomes. Consideration is also given to the mechanisms by which these abnormalities occur.

This is an excellent volume for those interested in the areas of genetics which are often bypassed in this day of "inborn errors" and biochemical genetics. It will not be an easy book for the physician or student, for whom it is intended, unless he already has some background in genetics on which to build. Nevertheless, he will be well rewarded by reading many of the chapters and will obtain a greater appreciation of genetic methodology and the role played by genetic material in human biology. The editor has made a fine contribution to the field and it is hoped that succeeding volumes will maintain the high standards set by this first issue.

STANLEY W. WRIGHT, M.D.

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**PATHOLOGY—Fourth Edition**—Edited by W. A. D. Anderson, M.A., M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.A.P., Professor of Pathology and Chairman of the Department of Pathology, University of Miami School of Medicine; and Director of the Pathology Laboratories, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1961. 1389 pages, with 1385 illustrations and 7 color plates, \$18.00.

For sixteen years this has been a well-known textbook of pathology, featuring the product of a large number of authors who have particular knowledge of the special fields that they represent. The compendium is the most complete of the single-volume general reference books in pathology. It can serve as a reference book for the graduate as well as for the undergraduate student. Particular attention has been given to the needs of the former through inclusion of as much detail as can be appropriately incorporated into a single volume. An attempt has been made to emphasize newly recognized conditions in keeping the fourth edition up to date. There have been revisions in many sections, and several portions, such as that on hypersensitivity diseases, are completely new. Illustrations are numerous and of good quality. Instead of the use of large and small type for different paragraphs, which characterized previous editions, the new edition uses type of intermediate size for all parts. This type is a little smaller than that used in most textbooks but the lines are relatively widely separated and it is easily legible. More material can be included than would have been permitted by the employment of larger type. References are abundant; nearly all are in English, although a few outstanding articles in foreign literature are included.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.